AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing data content received at a local area network from an external communications network, wherein the method comprises:

receiving unanalyzed content at a local area network;

passing the unanalyzed content to a switch in the local area network;

analyzing the unanalyzed content at the switch and generating analyzed data; and

routing the analyzed data to a device in the local area network in communication with the switch, wherein the switch comprises a plurality of ports, and wherein analyzing the unanalyzed content at the switch comprises the switch scanning the plurality of ports and applying a content analysis algorithm to each of the plurality of ports,

wherein applying the content analysis algorithm comprises applying a first content analysis algorithm to a first port of the plurality of ports and applying a second content analysis algorithm to a second port of the plurality of ports, wherein the second content analysis algorithm is different than the first content analysis algorithm.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing the unanalyzed content comprises applying a content filtering algorithm to the unanalyzed content upon ingress at one of the plurality of ports.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing the unanalyzed content comprises applying a content filtering algorithm to the unanalyzed content upon egress at one of the plurality of ports.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the unanalyzed content is formatted in data packets.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein analyzing the unanalyzed content at the switch comprises the switch applying the content analysis algorithm to each data packet of unanalyzed content.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the switch applying the content analysis algorithm comprises the switch executing an anti-virus algorithm.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the switch applying the content analysis algorithm comprises the switch executing an intrusion detection algorithm.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of ports comprises a dedicated processor and each dedicated processor for a respective port independently applies a separate content analysis algorithm to unanalyzed content at the port, whereby each of the plurality of ports analyzes content with its respective processor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a content analysis software update at the switch from a managed service provider network via the external communications network.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising applying the content analysis software update to each of the plurality of ports at the switch configured to implement content analysis software contained in the content analysis software update.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of managing content analysis for a local area network from a managed service provider network, wherein the local area network

comprises a switch in communication with an external communications network and at least one device in communication with the switch, wherein the method comprises:

establishing a communication link between the switch of the local area network and the managed service provider network via the external communications network;

transmitting port configuration instructions from the managed service provider network to the switch of the local area network, the port configuration instructions comprising instructions to configure a plurality of ports on a port-to-port basis at the switch to implement at least [[one]] two content analysis functions and to cause the switch to scan and apply ~~the at least one~~ a first content analysis function to a first selected port of the plurality of ports and scan and apply a second content analysis function to a second selected port of the plurality of ports, wherein the second content analysis function is different than the first content analysis function.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

receiving a content analysis software update at the managed service provider network;

transmitting the content analysis software update to the switch and updating content analysis software at the switch with the content analysis software update.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising monitoring content analysis activity at the switch from the managed service provider network.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing content analysis policy to a plurality of networks, the method comprising:

establishing a communication link between a switch in each of a plurality of subscriber networks and an application management appliance of a managed service provider network via an external communications network;

transmitting one of instructions or update information for a content analysis application from the application management appliance to the switch in each of the plurality of subscriber networks, the content analysis application comprising a first content analysis application and a second content analysis application, wherein the switch in each of the plurality of subscriber networks comprises a plurality of ports; [[and]]

applying the first content analysis application to a first port of the plurality of ports and applying the second content analysis application to a second port of the plurality of ports, wherein the second content analysis application is different than the first content analysis application; and

receiving performance metrics of the first and second different content analysis applications from each of the plurality of subscriber networks, ~~wherein the switch in each of the plurality of subscriber networks comprises a plurality of ports~~[[,]] [[and]] wherein receiving performance metrics comprises receiving performance metrics for each of the plurality of ports in substantially real time.

16. (Currently Amended) A local area network switch system having content analysis capabilities comprising:

a billing server;

a plurality of ports in communication with the billing server, each of the plurality of ports configured for communication with a respective external device, and each of the plurality of ports comprising:

an interface connection adapted for connecting with a communication line of an external device;

a processor in communication with the interface connection;

a memory in communication with the processor;

an application buffer in communication with the processor and the memory, wherein the application buffer contains logic operative on the processor to analyze a content of information passing between the external device and the port; and

a communication bus in communication with each of the plurality of ports, the communication bus adapted to carry information between the plurality of ports,

wherein ~~the switch is configured to analyze the content of information passing through each of the plurality of ports~~ a first application buffer contains logic for applying a first content analysis algorithm to a first port of the plurality of ports and a second application buffer contains logic for applying a second content analysis algorithm to a second port of the plurality of ports, wherein the second content analysis algorithm is different than the first content analysis algorithm,

wherein the billing server is operable to track charges for content analysis services and bill on a per port basis.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an application buffer administrative interface in communication with the communication bus, wherein the application buffer administrative interface comprises content analysis resources accessible by the application buffer for each of the plurality of ports.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one of the application buffers comprises anti-virus filtering logic.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one of the application buffers comprises network security logic.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least one of the application buffers comprises content filtering logic.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the application buffer administrative interface comprises anti-virus definitions adapted for use by anti-virus logic stored on an application buffer at each of the plurality of ports.